



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

City of Claremont, NH

BACKGROUND

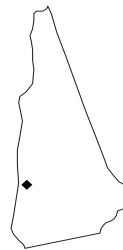
EPA has selected the City of Claremont for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Claremont (population 13,151) borders the Connecticut River, a designated American Heritage River, in "Precision Valley," an area known for its past dominance in precision machine tool manufacturing. Steady decline of Claremont's machine tool industry, textile milling, and manufacturing operations over the past 60 years has led to the abandonment of many large industrial buildings or their conversion into subsidized housing. New commercial or industrial businesses have failed to take over these properties, in part due to the lack of site-specific information regarding potential environmental contamination. The Pilot targets four city-owned or controlled properties that supported a range of past industrial operations, and will identify and prioritize privately-owned brownfield sites requiring environmental assessment.

Claremont's economic decline is evidenced by the 10 percent decrease in the city's population over the past two decades. Much of the city's work force commutes to other cities or regional recreational resorts for lower-paying service jobs. Between 1970 and 1990, the percentage of individuals living below the poverty line rose from 5.2 percent to nearly 13 percent. Forty eight percent of the city's residents are dependant upon social security assistance.

OBJECTIVES

The city's objective is to return brownfield sites in the downtown and mill districts to the city's market and tax roles, while encouraging a mixed-use redevelopment of the reclaimed properties. The Pilot plans to accomplish this objective by performing site assessments on priority sites and preparing cleanup and reuse plans for these sites. The Pilot will also fund community involvement activities.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Claremont,
New Hampshire*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets several brownfields in the downtown and mill districts of an economically depressed former New England mill town.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(617) 918-1424

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing a brownfields reuse project steering committee representing the city, residential neighborhoods adjacent to brownfield sites, and partner organizations;
- Establishing site selection criteria reflecting information on historical use, vacancy rates, and public input;

- Performing Phase I environmental assessments at up to eight sites;
- Prioritizing sites that have the greatest redevelopment potential based on the extent of contamination and location;
- Conducting Phase II environmental assessments at a limited number of priority sites; and
- Conducting community outreach through individual contacts and televised public meetings.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.